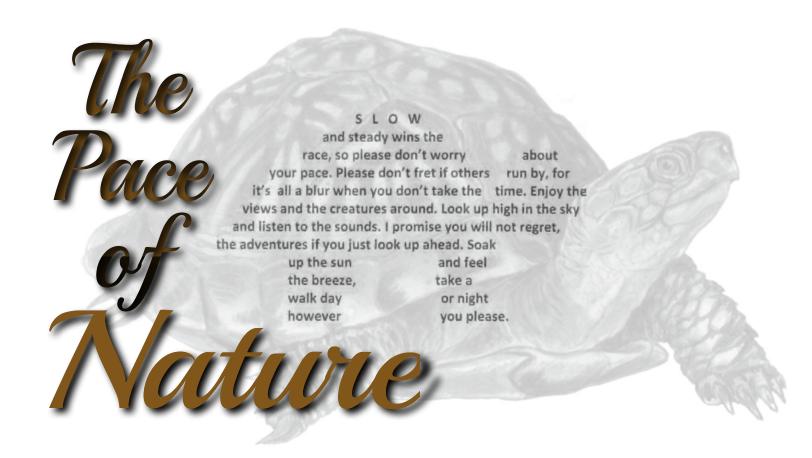
CENTRAL MISSOURI

Habitat Happenings



News and Events from Runge Conservation Nature Center • May/June 2016



nails definitely travel at their own pace...slow. The **brown garden snail** has a strong sense of place. Even though it may take them a long time, they can always find their way back home. Snails can sometimes be hard to spot in the leaf litter, so be sure and stay on the trails and not accidently crunch them.

You may see a box turtle cross your path as you walk the trails at Runge. The **three-toed box turtle** is a woodland species. Box turtles can have a home range of 2-5 acres, which is a large area for such a small reptile.

If you see a small, brown blur scurry by, it may be a chipmunk hurriedly going to store some new found treasure. The **eastern chipmunk's** scientific name is *Tamias striatus*. *Tamias* is a Greek word meaning "a storer," which perfectly describes this animal's food-storing habits.

As you stroll along at <u>your own pace</u> on our trails, remember to look around and experience <u>the pace of nature</u>.

—Taliaa Pendergrass, Assistant Naturalist

Volunteer News

Helping you connect with nature.

Celebrating Volunteers!

Twenty-six staff volunteers from Runge Nature Center attended the Volunteers in Conservation Conference at Lake of the Ozarks in February. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) organizes this conference every three years for staff volunteers from across the state. Department biologists, naturalists, and special guest speakers led workshops to motivate and celebrate the volunteers and offered them an opportunity to learn new skills and become updated on MDC projects and policies. The MDC recognizes the importance of volunteers within their programs and this conference was just one way they showed it.





Those who can, do.
Those who can do more, volunteer.
—Unknown

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, (330 Commerce Drive), Jefferson City, Missouri. 573-526-5544 http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

BUILDING HOURS: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM

Closed Sunday, Monday and all State Holidays.

TRAIL HOURS: Open daily 6 AM-9 PM

Milestones

Congratulations to the following volunteers for their hours of service:

100 hours -

Amy Cook
Jim Cunningham
Hope Kirk
Michael Morgart
Ethan Stevenson

200 hours -

Rachel Campbell Rose Mehmert Paul Winn

300 hours -

Dan Bernskoetter Laura Richardson

400 hours -

Michaela Kirk Annelise Schulte

500 hours -

Crystal Lueckenhoff Ethan Regan

1000 hours -

Kent Moreland

1250 hours -

Lynn Shively

1500 hours –

Janet Ruse

4000 hours -

Karen Dunkle

5000 hours -

Judith Lambayan

Thank You!

Look for your program under one of these headings -

Little Ones (0-6 years) Kids for Conservation (7-12 years) Teens for Conservation (13-17 years)

Adults (18+ years) All Ages Mixed Age Groups



Lobby Exhibit

Natural Areas Paintings by Bill Helvey

Bill Helvey grew up with a love of nature. He has used Missouri natural areas as inspiration for art for more than fifty years.

This exhibit features many natural areas of Missouri, including rivers, caves, and wildlife. It shows the abundant resources of our beautiful state.

West Wing

Junior Duck Stamp

We are proud to display the winning artwork from Missouri's 2015 Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Visit the nature center, during the **month of June**, to view the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention entries from this contest.



West Wing

Bringing Wood to Life by Larry Rehma

Carving has been a lifelong hobby for Larry Rehma, Union, Missouri, who finds the work relaxing. He took up the hobby as a boy growing up on a farm in Portland, Missouri, near Fulton. Some of his first pieces were toys that he made for his younger brother.

His exhibit will feature mainly birds that look so realistic you want to touch the carvings to make sure the feathers are not real.



May Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Monday, May 2nd,** for the May programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Squirm the Worm

Worms don't push their way through dirt, they eat their way! Learn many more interesting facts about these small earth churners.

Babes in the Woods

May 10 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM May 27 • Friday • 10–11 AM Registration required (ages 0-2 years)

Little Acorns

May 18 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM Registration required (ages 3-6 years)

Little Acorns PLUS

May 12 • Thursday • 6–7 PM May 17 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range and one child in the 3-6 age range.

Kids for Conservation

Stream Team #667 Clean-up

May 26 • Thursday • 6–7:45 PM Registration required (ages 7-12 years) You are invited to our annual stream team clean-up at Runge on our section of Wears Creek. Let's wade in the water, pick up trash, and scoop for "live" aquatic insects, fish, or amphibians. Then take a break and drink our famous MUDDY FLOAT! Don't forget to wear old clothes and shoes to get wet and muddy.

Adults

Invasive Tree Pest Workshop

May 3 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM

Registration required 573-815-7901 ext 3628.

Help us protect Missouri's trees!

This workshop will teach you how to detect and report five invasive forest pests, including emerald ash borer, thousand cankers disease,

Asian longhorned beetle, gypsy moth, and Sirex woodwasp. Location:

Central Regional Office, 3500 E Gans Road,

Columbia.

Color Your Natural World

May 11 • Wednesday • 1:30–2:30 PM *Registration required.*

Spring's temperatures are warming toward another Missouri summer. Join us as we contemplate animals, like turtles and snails, which thrive in their slow lifestyles while we relax and color. Enjoy a fun time with us embellishing sheets using colored pencils we provide or bring your own.

Midweek Trekkers

May 18 • Wednesday • 7:30 AM–5:30 PM Registration required.

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to Cole Creek. part of the Mark Twain National Forest system, near Lebanon and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 5-7 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. Notes: Bring lunch.

Nature's Needlers: The Seasons of Nature

May 19 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon <u>OR</u> 6–7:30 PM *Registration required.*

In May, fishing fever is high. Just what kinds of fish inhabit our streams and lakes? Learn this and many other facts about Missouri fish as we create our fifth quilt block in this series.

The Hikers

May 21 • Saturday • 8 AM-5 PM Registration required. Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Prairie Fork Conservation Area** in Callaway County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 5 miles. *Terrain*: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch. Runge is also sponsoring a family campout in the evening. Any hiker who wishes to participate in the campout will either need to follow us in their own vehicle with gear, or have family members meet them at Prairie Fork Conservation Area around 4 PM.



May Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.



Designs with Nature in Mind: Water Coloring

May 21 • Saturday • 9:30 AM-Noon **OR** 1-3:30 PM Reaistration reauired.

The sights of spring - butterflies and flowers - will be captured as you try your hand at watercolor painting. Leaders will take you through this unique way of painting and each participant will go home with one handmade note card. Weather permitting, time will be spent outdoors.

All Ages

Worm Bin Basics

May 7 • Saturday • 10 AM-Noon Registration required. Learn to make your own worm bin. Feed your garbage to the worms, then put the resulting compost in your garden. Finally, use the worms for fish bait. It's a win-win!

What's Going On?: **Wild Baby Animals**

May 14 • Saturday • 10 AM-2 PM *No registration required.* This is a great month for baby animals to either be born or emerge from dens or pouches. Table-top activities and exhibits will highlight some of these animals. Stop by to learn more about wild babies in the outdoors.

What's Going On?: Pond Life

May 21 • Saturday • 10 AM-2 PM *No registration required.* Discover life under, on, and around a pond. Join us in the watery world with indoor and outdoor pond activities. Aquatic nets will be available to check out for pond scooping. Let's go outside and discover nature.

Mixed Age Groups

Map and Compass

May 10 • Tuesday • 6–7:30 PM **OR** May 11 • Wednesday • 6-7:30 PM *Registration required.* What is a topographic map? How do you navigate with a compass? Learn the basics of using a map and compass during this workshop. Bring your compass or use one of ours and be prepared to go outside.

Scout Packs

Get outside and explore.

Cub Scout Packs

Runge Conservation Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following packs.

Tiger Adventure Pack: Backyard Jungle/Tigers in the Wild

Bear Adventure Pack: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns Wolf Adventure Pack: Paws on the Path

Webelos Adventure Pack: Into the Woods/Walkabout

Webelos Adventure Pack: Into the Wild

Adventure Birding and Halfday Discovery Walks: Birding at Clifty Creek Conservation

May 14 • Saturday • 6 AM-3 PM Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult) Rise and shine! We are off for a day's adventure to Clifty Creek Conservation Area, in Maries County, a beautiful place to hike and a fabulous birding hotspot. Many warblers and vireos nest in this remarkable woodland, as well as the roughed-wing swallows that nest in the banks at the natural rock bridge. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet at the nature center to carpool to the area.

Family Camping

May 21 • Saturday • 4 PM through May 22 • Sunday • 10 AM Registration required (Families) Families with children 6 years of age and older are invited to join Runge volunteers and staff for overnight camping. If you have always wanted to take your children camping, here is an opportunity. Experienced outdoor enthusiasts will help make this a safe atmosphere for exploring outdoors, using your equipment, and learning with others. Families must bring their own tent, sleeping bags, and personal items. Runge has a limited number of tents to borrow if there is a need. Water, portapotties, fire ring, and barbeque pit will be available. Runge will plan a Dutch oven meal for Saturday night plus hot dogs! S'mores will follow later. A continental breakfast will be available Sunday morning or feel free to try out camp cooking on your own. Meet at Prairie Fork Conservation Area between 4-5 p.m. to begin setting up camp. Visit www. prairiefork.missouri.edu for a map and directions to the site.

June Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



Registration begins **Wednesday, June 1st,** for the June programs.

Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Little Ones

Turtle Tales

Turtles have been around as long as dinosaurs and maybe longer! Join us for stories, a walk, and close-encounters with a few of Missouri's oldest reptiles.

Babes in the Woods

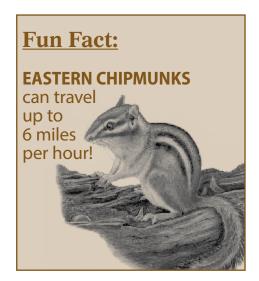
June 17 • Friday • 10–11 AM June 28 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM Registration required (ages 0-2 years)

Little Acorns

June 16 • Thursday • 10–11 AM June 29 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM Registration required (ages 3-6 years)

Little Acorns PLUS

June 22 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM Registration required. For this program, you need one child in the 0-2 age range **and** one child in the 3-6 age range.



Teens for Conservation

Let's Go Canoeing!

June 21 • Tuesday • 8 AM-4 PM Registration required (ages 13-17 years) Space is limited, so register early. We will spend the day paddling, floating, and exploring one of Missouri's nearby rivers. Runge will provide round trip transportation from the nature center, plus the canoes, paddles, and personal flotation devices. Pack a lunch and personal items in a dry sack. Participants must fill out a permission form.

Adults

The Hikers

Registration required.
Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to Little Lost Creek Conservation Area in Warren County. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Trail Length: 6 miles. Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. Notes: Bring lunch.

June 4 • Saturday • 8 AM-5 PM

Color Your Natural World

June 14 • Tuesday • 1–2 PM Registration required.

The calendar says it will be summer this month, and some animals consistently seek cooler temperatures under the ground. While we relax and color, we'll dig into some unknown facts about chipmunks and their relatives. Spend time with us embellishing sheets with colored pencils we provide or bring your own.

Midweek Trekkers

June 15 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration required.
Join our volunteer-led program

Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to **Van Meter State Park** in Saline County and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather. *Trail Length:* 4 miles. *Terrain:* Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots. *Notes:* Bring lunch.

Nature's Needlers: The Seasons of Nature

June 16 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon <u>**OR**</u> 6–7:30 PM *Registration required*.

The blossoms of June we enjoy would not be possible without pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Learn about the role these small inspects play in nature as we demonstrate the sixth block in this series.

All Ages

games.

What's Going On?: Turtle Time

June 4 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM No registration required.
On land and in the water, Missouri has an abundance of turtle species. Visit Runge today and observe a few of the species we keep. Become more familiar with their natural history through discovery tables, crafts, and

June Programs

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



What's Going On?: Pollinator Power!

June 18 • Saturday • 10 AM-2 PM *No registration required.* Kick off National Pollinator Week (June 20-26) at Runge and celebrate Missouri's own pollinators with activities and discovery tables. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds are just a few examples of hardworking animals helping our native plants survive. Guided nature walks will be at 11 AM and 1 PM.

Summer Lobby Activities

June 23 • Thursday 10 AM-2 PM AND June 24 • Friday • 10 AM-2 PM *No registration required.* Stop by the nature center on either day or both and enjoy a variety of nature exploratory tables, activities, and crafts. The staff will pick a few of their favorites to share with you. Summer is a great time to play and explore. See you then!

Snake and Aquarium Feeding

June 24 • Friday • 1:30 PM *No registration required.* The animals are hungry. Join us and watch as we feed the snakes, aguarium fish, and snapping turtles.

Fishing Fun

June 30 • Thursday • 6–8 PM *No registration required.*

Have you ever wondered what types of fish inhabit our Runge pond? Join us for an evening of "catch and release" while enjoying the summer air. Bring your own pole and bait or use some of ours. Ages 16 and older will need a valid fishing permit.

Mixed Age Groups

Adventure Birding: Birding and Biking on the Katy Trail

June 18 • Saturday • 8 AM-Noon Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)

Back by popular demand! We will bike and explore the birds (and flowers) along the Katy Trail that parallels Perche Creek at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area in Boone County. We will also stop to see this wetland area from the observation deck that overlooks the area. Dress for the weather and bring your bike, water, snacks, and your binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet at the parking lot at the McBaine Trailhead at 8 AM. (Take Hwy 163 to Columbia and then left on K.)

Nature in the Arts: John Nilsen in Concert

June 23 • Thursday • 6:30-7:30 PM *No registration required (ages 12 and* older, children accompanied by an adult)

Become immersed in nature through the music of John Nilsen and the photography of our Missouri Department of Conservation photographers. John is an accomplished pianist who gets his inspiration from nature. John played 250 performances last year throughout the USA and Europe. His newest release, Local Ocean, will be out this summer. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate nature.

Half-Day Discovery Hikes

June 25 • Saturday • 8 AM-Noon Registration required (ages 8 and older, children accompanied by an adult) Join our volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Meet at the nature center and drive to Prairie Fork Conservation Area, located near Millersburg, to hike the area. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots. Notes: The focus of this hike will be identifying flowers.

Reminders...

Essentials for Runge Hiking Programs

Hikers need:

- 1. Appropriate footwear trail shoes or hiking boots.
- 2. Water 2 water bottles or 70 oz. reservoir.
- **3.** Food lunch, plus nuts, energy bars, or dried fruits.
- **4.** Appropriate clothing dress in layers, carry a hat, be prepared for rain.
- **5.** Insect repellent, sunscreen, lip balm, and personal medications.
- **6.** Optional: walking sticks, camera, binoculars, etc.



CAMP F.I.R.E Fun In Resource Exploration

June 7–11

Tuesday-Friday 9 AM- 3 PM Saturday 9-11 AM

This year's camp will focus on Missouri's forest community. Throughout the week, our explorations will take you up, down, and through the woods. Discover hunting as you learn to shoot a firearm. Discover nature as you look, listen, and play.

Applications are being accepted through April 29th. A lottery drawing will take place on May 5th and successful campers will be notified by May 6th. Ages 9-12 years of age.

Let the adventures begin... May 30 - September 5

PASSPORT JEFFERS NCITY

See some of Jefferson City's most interesting spots this summer by participating in PASSPORT JEFFERSON CITY.

Visit a participating site, do a short scavenger hunt or tour, pick up a gift, and get your passport stamped. If you visit all the participating sites, you are eligible to win a large gift basket filled with lots of Jefferson City items.

Pick up a passport at any participating site.

Participating Sites

Runge Conservation Nature Center

Highway Patrol Safety Education Center

Lincoln University Farmers' Market

Lincoln University Native Plants Program

Missouri Farm Bureau Log Home

Missouri River Regional Library

Missouri State Archives

Missouri State Museum

Missouri State Penitentiary Museum

Museum of Military History

MVMA Veterinary Museum

Nature in the Arts:

JOHN NILSEN in Concert

June 23 • Thursday • 6:30-7:30 PM

No registration required.

Ages 12 and older.

